Poster presentations

Safety profile of methylprednisolone acetate epidural injection in dogs treated for lumbosacral disease

**Bettina Salmelin, Noel Fitzpatrick,
Jeremy Rose, Colin Driver**

Fitzpatrick Referrals, Orthopaedics and Neurology, Easing,
United Kingdom

OBJECTIVES

To report side-effects after methylprednisolone acetate epidural injection in dogs treated for lumbosacral degenerative stenosis. Side-effects caused by inadvertent systemic administration of methylprednisolone acetate during epidural treatment has been reported in humans to range from 9 to 32.8%, however data in the canine population is limited (n = 15 to n = 38) and highly variable (0 to 50%).

METHODS

Computer records at a single referral institution in the UK were searched for dogs with MRI confirmed

lumbosacral degenerative stenosis who were treated with at least three methylprednisolone acetate epidural injections between April 2012–May 2018. Details on side-effects reported by owners at re-check examination approximately two weeks after treatment were analysed.

RESULTS

A total of 730 methylprednisolone epidural injections were analysed within a population of 150 dogs. After excluding cases without full follow-up information (n = 249), this resulted in a total of 481 cases. The following temporary side-effects were reported: 4.9% (n = 24) systemic side-effects including polyuria, polydipsia and/or polyphagia; 2.1% (n = 10) clinical deterioration or subdued temperament, 0.8% (n = 4) urinary incontinence and 0.8% (n = 4) diarrhoea. All side-effects resolved within a few days after treatment without intervention. No major or permanent side-effects were reported.

STATEMENT (CONCLUSIONS)

Epidural methylprednisolone acetate injection is a relatively safe medical treatment option for lumbosacral degenerative stenosis in dogs. Our retrospective analysis revealed an incidence of 8.6% transient side-effects that resolved without further intervention. This is comparable to human literature. No major catastrophic side-effects were noted.

A case management Framework for complex decisions in a shelter setting

Runa Hanaghan

Dogs Trust, London, United Kingdom

OBJECTIVES

To provide a clear management framework for complex cases between veterinary professionals and other experts within a shelter environment. To aid collaboration and communication between multiple stakeholders.

METHODS

A simple framework established through an iterative process assists in case decisions. This allows for a careful balance between progressions within veterinary science and ethical assessments, inclusive of situational factors.

A complex case may arise when a dog has more than one problem to tackle or where there may be a lack of accessible resources for their ongoing care. Animal welfare and logical clinical decision making provides the basis of the Complex Case Management (CCM) framework to evaluate individual cases across multiple interdisciplinary teams arriving at a solution.

RESULTS

The CCM Diagram (*Figure 1*) provides broad topics (problem list, solutions, ability for the dog to cope and resources available) within the CCM Framework (*Figure 2*) comparable against expert opinions (behavioural

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Using this approach, pragmatic and welfare focused decisions can be made for individual animals where both circumstance and resource may be influential. Providing clarity in a decision process can reducing the stress and easing the burden for all parties when a sensitive decision may be required.

Surgical management of a urethrorectal fistula and associated atresia ani in this dog was successful, with resolution of clinical abnormalities. Surgical correction should be considered as a potential treatment option in similar cases.